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American Indians are, as usual, classed as Mongols. For a German textbook, however, the work is a vast stride in advance.

The Origin of Sacred Numbers. D. G. BRINTON. Amer. Anthropol., Vol. VII (1894), pp. 168-173.

In this brief paper the author deals with "holy or sacred numbers as observed in the early civilizations, and among tribes living in what we call primitive conditions." His conclusions are: (1) The sacred numbers are preëminently 3 and 4, or derived from these; (2) these numbers represent contrasting or antithetic symbolic notions, and arise from wholly opposite mental perceptions; (3) the number 3 derives its sacredness from abstract subjective operations of the intelligence, and has its main application in the imaginary and non-phenomenal world; (4) the number 4 derives its sacredness from concrete and material relations from external perceptions, and has its application in the objective and phenomenal world; (5) the associations which attach sacredness to these numbers arise in the human mind of the same character everywhere and at all times, so that no theory of borrowing is needed to explain identities or similarities in this respect; (6) ethnic character, however, tends potently to develop especially the one or the other, either the abstract symbolism or the 3 and its derivatives, or the concrete symbolism of the 4 and its derivatives; and conversely the preponderant development of the one or the other of these reveals, with instructive precision, the ethnic character of tribes and nations. In the "three series," we have the various trinities of time, space, position; creation, preservation, destruction; birth, life, death; three worlds; divine triads—the trinities of Buddhism, Christianity, etc. Derived from 3 are 9 and 33, numbers of significance in Teutonic and Hindu mythology. In the "four series"—derived directly from the relations of the human body to the external world about it—we have the four cardinal points, Janus, the four-faced Roman year-god, and the world-wide occurrence of the number four in myth, ritual and ceremony. Derived from 4 are the numbers 7 and 13, sacred or tabu'd numbers in many lands and among many peoples—the 7 planets; the 7 "ancient spaces" of the Zuni Indians; the 7 caves of Aztec legend, etc.; the 13 islands of which the earth consists according to Hindu cosmogony; the 13 months of the North Asiatic and primitive Aryan solar year, etc.

As to ethnic facts, Dr. Brinton states that "the American and Mongolian races revere almost exclusively the "four series," for which also the ancient Babylonians had a decided preference; while triads and trilogies are Egyptian and Greek, Teutonic, Keltic, Slavonic, Indic. Dr. Brinton's paper is another valuable addition to the literature of anthropologic psychology.

A Primer of Mayan Hieroglyphics. D. G. BRINTON. (Publications of the University of Pennsylvania; Series in Philology, Literature and Archæology, Vol. III, No. 2), Boston, 1895, VI, 9-152. pp. 80.

The object of this primer is "with the greatest brevity to supply the learner with the elements necessary for a study of the native hieroglyphic writing of Central America," and Dr. Brinton is of all students of this, *the* problem of American archæology and linguistics, best qualified to perform such a task, combining as he does a terse and vigorous style with a directness of thought, and an instinctive grasp of the essentials of the subject under discussion, that are not often found among those who have treated of this *crux* of Americanists, the graphic system of the Mayas and their congeners in ancient Central America. After a brief introduction concerned with the general character of the Mayan hieroglyphics, the manuscripts and the various theories of interpretation, "alphabets" and "keys," that have been put forth from time to